



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: April 28, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: April 27, 2003
CWP WA-CW1703

Winter Wheat Condition Continued to Improve Pears in Full Bloom in Douglas and Chelan

Field Crops

Winter wheat condition continued to improve with precipitation and favorable temperatures. Stripe rust has been reported in southern Washington. In Whitman County, spring seeding operations were underway in the eastern half of the county, while the western half was nearly completed. Potatoes were being planted throughout the Columbia Basin. Fieldwork in central Washington focused on preparation for the irrigation season. Western Washington received rain most of the week, but the weekend weather was dry and producers were able to get into their fields.

Livestock

Pasture conditions across most of the state were improving due to warmer temperatures and increased precipitation. However, pastures in the southwest were beginning to show problems because of excess rain, and farmers were not able to turn cows out on pastures due to the mud. Oyster harvest continued in Pacific County, with some early seed set on shells. Range and pasture conditions were 1% poor, 75% fair, 23% good, and 1% excellent.

Fruits and Vegetables

Blueberry growers were applying fungicides and sawdust mulch to plants. In Grays Harbor County, tulip cut flower harvest was completed. Fruit trees around Snohomish and King County were coming into bloom. Chelan and Douglas County pears were in full bloom. Rain in the Yakima Valley increased apple scab potential to moderate. Throughout central Washington, planting of potatoes, carrots, and sweet corn continued. Onion planting was completed in Grant County.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.2
Last Week	4.8

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	6	85	9
Subsoil	0	12	86	2
Irrigation Water	0	11	89	0
Hay & Roughage	0	7	93	0

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2002	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	88	69	79	82
Spring Wheat Emerged	57	28	48	53
Barley Planted	81	53	63	73
Barley Emerged	39	10	33	38
Potatoes Planted	65	44	53	66
Potatoes Emerged	16	10	24	29
Corn Planted	51	30	27	30
Corn Emerged	4	0	0	1
Dry Edible Beans Planted	13	3	9	2
Proc. Green Peas Planted	54	44	34	38
Dry Peas Planted	43	13	37	40

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	7	20	57	14
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	2	82	16
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	0	48	44	8
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	13	87	0
Barley Dryland	0	0	33	55	12
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	100	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clark/Skamania/Wahkiakum: It rained off and on most of the week, making fieldwork difficult to impossible. Pastures were beginning to show problems because of excess rain, and farmers were not able to turn cows out on pastures due to the mud. The excess rain was more of a problem in the higher rainfall areas such as the Columbia Gorge in Skamania and in Wahkiakum County.

Grays Harbor: Ag producers began field cultivation on lighter soils in the Brady Bottoms. Christmas tree growers continued fertilizing plantations. Blueberry growers were applying sawdust mulches to plants. Forage grasses continued vigorous growth under nearly ideal conditions. Hothouse tomato growers reported rapid plant growth. Tulip cut flower harvest was completed.

Kitsap: Farmers worked on field preparations and planting. Rain and cool weather threatened to delay spring crop production.

Pacific: Continued wet conditions limited fieldwork in the area. Cranberry and Christmas tree growers initiated spring weed control. Pasture conditions were improving. Oyster harvest continued, with some early seed set on shells.

Pierce/S. King: The weather was wet with little opportunity for farmers to get into their fields. There were no unusual weather situations to report. One report of crop damage to rhubarb was received. The damage was stem splitting due to the wet, warm weather.

Snohomish/N. King: Heavy rain and showers were received during the week. On Sunday, the temperature soared to 70 degrees! Pasture growth was excellent. Fieldwork and grass harvest continued as weather permitted. Early apples were coming into bloom. Stone fruits were mostly past full bloom.

Snohomish/N. King (2nd Report): Beautiful weather most of the week was enjoyed by all. Saturday was cold and wet, requiring a coat, then Sunday was warm enough to think about needing sunscreen. Fruit trees continued to blossom along with spring flowers. Dairymen were busy with the first grass harvest. The weather permitted a lot of fieldwork to be completed. New spring calves and colts were laying in pastures basking in the sun.

Thurston: Ag producers were jubilant to have several days with no rain. Some producers were able to do initial plowing on lighter soils. Heavier soils remained super saturated. Christmas tree growers began spot spraying Canada thistle. Forage crops continued to grow vigorously. Blueberry growers continued applying fungicides. Turfgrass growers continued mowing and harvesting fields. Above average rainfall throughout the month of April delayed field cultivation throughout the entire county. Ag producers were anxious to begin field cultivation to make up for lost time.

Whatcom: It was a very wet week with rain showers most of the week. The weekend weather was dry and producers were able to get into their fields to prepare for spring planting.

Central

Benton: Asparagus cutting and spring planting were major activities. Mildew sprays and herbicides were applied to tree fruits and grapes.

Benton (2nd Report): Showers were received during the week. Normal spring growth continued.

Chelan/Douglas: The winter wheat crop was beginning to look better, given the recent precipitation. Cattle continued to be released onto spring pastures. The pastures were also doing well because of the recent precipitation. Pears were in full bloom. Some hail was received in the Wenatchee area of Chelan County, but no damage has been reported. Area estimates indicate a bumper cherry crop this year.

Franklin: Generally mild weather with some rain was received during the week. Asparagus harvesting continued. Potato, carrot, and sweet corn planting continued.

Grant: Onion planting was completed. Sweet corn planting

continued. Many cruciferous seed crops were in bloom.

Kittitas: Much needed precipitation was received during the week, improving irrigation water supply levels. Range and pastures were in good shape. Fieldwork continued in preparation for the irrigation season.

Okanogan/Ferry: The winter wheat crop looked better because of the recent rains. Range conditions were better also.

Yakima: Rain in some areas increased apple scab potential to moderate. Growers were applying appropriate fungicides. Frost protection was needed several times during the week. Warm daytime temperatures were good for early fruit growth.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from 13 degrees above normal to 6 degrees below normal, with .85" of rain. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat conditions continued to improve with precipitation and favorable temperatures. Stripe rust may become a problem this year, as it has already been located south of Adams County. Moisture conditions were adequate.

Adams (2nd Report): Growing conditions were favorable again with mostly warm daytime temperatures. Some precipitation was received during the week. Winter wheat was looking very good. Mustards were beginning to show bloom. Potatoes were being planted throughout the county.

Asotin/Garfield: Unstable weather provided more showers throughout the week. Many farmers were now completing spring seeding. Producers in the higher elevations were still working on seeding spring crops between the showery weather. Winter wheat was in mostly good condition. Rangeland was slowly improving. Warm weather is needed for crop and rangeland growth.

Lincoln: Winter wheat conditions continued to improve as did the soil moisture (100% adequate). With the given weather pattern, stripe rust has been reported in southern Washington, and may become a problem in Lincoln County.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: We had another typical spring week with varied weather. More fieldwork (including spring planting) was completed this week but there is a lot more planting to go. The moisture situation was good, but more warm weather is

needed to get things growing. Frost and freezing temperatures may have done some damage to stone fruits that were blooming during the week.

Stevens: The week showed a return to traditional spring weather as fronts moved quickly through the area. Rain showers alternated with periods of sunshine and occasional hail throughout the week. Warm temperatures are needed to kick grass growth into high gear. Ranchers were branding calves and beginning to move cattle to spring pastures.

Walla Walla: Frequent rain continued to delay spring planting. However, area crops and rangeland appeared to be in very good condition.

Whitman: The seeding of spring grains was mostly complete in the western part of the county. Spring planting in the east was over 50 percent complete. Rainfall brought most fieldwork to a halt late in the week, with accumulations over a three day period averaging 1/2 to 3/4". Crop conditions continued to look mostly good and were improving.

Whitman(2nd Report): Spring work continued as seeding operations were underway in the eastern half of the county. The western half has nearly completed spring planting. A rainy spring weather pattern continued to interrupt seeding operations, but kept topsoil moisture conditions excellent.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

April 28, 2003

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	34	60	48	-2	5	-4	0	0	1.06	0.43	5	22.14	-7.00	76	118
Everett	40	59	48	-3	2	-12	0	0	0.64	0.05	3	22.47	-6.65	77	121
Hoquiam	34	62	48	-3	3	-11	0	0	0.70	-0.22	5	58.32	-1.17	98	134
Kelso	34	66	49	-2	3	-13	0	0	1.03	0.31	5	23.19	-15.98	59	97
Olympia	34	63	48	-1	2	-5	0	0	1.47	0.80	4	35.20	-9.30	79	125
Sea-Tac	40	62	48	-3	2	-12	0	0	0.62	0.13	5	29.54	-2.37	93	116
Shelton	34	63	48	-4	1	-19	0	0	1.21	0.41	6	52.93	-5.33	91	125
Tacoma	34	63	48	-3	3	-13	0	0	1.25	0.67	5	25.43	-8.66	75	113
Vancouver	36	68	50	0	6	-11	0	0	1.33	0.75	5	32.06	-2.97	92	121
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	27	61	48	-2	7	-7	0	0	0.17	0.03	1	7.33	0.16	102	69
Omak	32	73	53	5	27	15	2	2	1.07	0.79	2	10.90	0.60	106	54
Stampede Pass	29	49	36	0	0	0	0	0	1.09	0.07	4	54.75	-16.03	77	122
Wenatchee	36	72	53	-1	28	-3	2	-1	0.58	0.44	3	8.55	2.07	132	67
Yakima AP	30	71	52	2	25	2	4	4	0.85	0.78	2	7.72	1.32	121	49
NORTHEAST															
Colville	29	71	52	4	23	9	1	1	0.08	-0.27	1	14.56	-1.06	93	59
Deer Park	26	74	49	2	14	2	0	0	0.23	-0.12	2	18.16	4.23	130	82
Spokane AP	29	75	48	0	13	2	0	0	0.27	-0.01	2	13.01	0.70	106	84
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	31	71	51	-3	23	-9	2	-2	0.12	0.05	2	7.35	1.74	131	49
Moses Lake	33	72	52	-2	24	-8	2	-2	0.16	0.09	2	7.38	1.77	132	66
Quincy	30	71	52	-1	25	-4	5	2	0.14	0.06	2	6.00	-0.12	98	49
Ritzville	31	71	48	-1	12	-2	0	0	0.27	0.07	2	10.40	1.57	118	73
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	32	73	52	-5	23	-28	0	-7	0.06	-0.01	2	7.72	2.46	147	61
Pasco	34	73	55	-2	36	-9	2	-5	0.57	0.46	4	6.58	0.66	111	68
Pullman	26	67	47	0	9	2	0	0	0.22	-0.13	1	8.49	-7.82	52	75
Whitman Miss.	32	73	52	0	29	1	0	0	1.23	0.98	5	13.46	2.90	127	106
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	28	73	50	2	21	7	1	1	1.08	0.69	4	15.73	-3.79	81	79
Lewiston ID	37	74	54	2	36	5	3	-1	0.79	0.51	4	9.98	1.68	120	90

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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